



CITY OF LITHONIA
MINUTES–CITY COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING
Tuesday, July 6, 2021 @ 5:30 PM

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The City Council Virtual Meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm by Mayor Shameka S. Reynolds. A roll call was taken, and the following City Council Members were present: Darold Honore, Amelia Inman, Vanneriah Wynn, and Ric Dodd. Diane Howard was absent from the call.

II. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed.

III. Approval of Agenda

Councilman Honore motioned to approve the agenda for the July 6, 2021 City Council meeting; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman and approved by a vote of 4-0.

IV. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

a. June 7, 2021 City Council Meeting (5:30 pm)

Councilman Dodd motioned to approve the June 7, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 4-0.

V. Action Item

a. Approval amount for St. Paul Fire Hydrant

Councilman Honore motioned to contribute \$25,000.00 for the movement of the fire hydrant for St. Paul for discussion; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn.

Councilwoman Wynn stated that she agrees with donating the amount of \$25,000.00 and no less than \$20,000.00 and partially agrees with Councilman Dodd and Councilwoman Inman (comments follow). Councilman Honore agrees with Councilwoman Wynn. Councilwoman Inman feels the residents should have input for the allocation of splost funds as they did in 2018, the fire hydrant was not in consideration at that time and there are other projects to be completed that would make a significant outcome, the responsibility to move the fire hydrant is that of the church. Councilman Dodd is not understanding why the fire hydrant must be moved and that it would be fantastic to assist St. Paul and other churches that may have a need, however it opens the door for precedence and feels that \$10,000.00 would be a fair start. City Administrator Sands stated a line must run under the road to the existing hydrant, the expense would be covered by the church, and the city must ensure the integrity of the work is properly performed.

Councilman Honore rescinded his motion.

Councilwoman Wynn motioned to table the contribution to the church for removal of the fire hydrant; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd and approved by a vote of 4-0.

b. Adoption of Blight Ordinance No. 2021-05-17

Councilman Honore motioned to adopt Blight Ordinance No. 2021-05-17; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd and approved by a vote of 4-0.

c. Approval for Public Works Storm Vehicle

Councilman Dodd motioned to approve the Dodge Ram at \$27,072.00 taken out of storm water funds for the city maintenance vehicle; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman and approved by a vote of 4-0.

d. Approval of 2 Police Cars

Councilman Honore motioned to approve the process for bids for 2 police cars for discussion; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd.

Chief Pollard stated to acquire 2 cars the cost is \$85,000.00 (4.32% interest rate) to include outfitting, for 3 cars the cost is \$128,000.00 (3.67% interest rate) to include outfitting. Councilman Honore is requesting 3 bids for contract review and wants to know what the budget looks like for acquiring 3 cars. Councilwoman Inman is fine with the approval. Councilman Dodd is in favor of moving forward and replied the insurance would only affect the budget and allow the city to get rid of the cars that are not working properly.

Councilman Honore would not rescind his motion. Councilwoman Inman, Councilman Dodd, and Councilwoman Wynn were opposed.

Councilman Dodd motioned to approve 3 new police cars with the approved contract by the city attorney, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman, and approved by a vote of 3-0. Councilman Honore was opposed.

VI. New Business

a. Lowes Engineering

City Administrator Sands stated for Civil Engineering Services to begin the project on Klondike, council needs to provide an approval, and additionally schedule a conference call to further discuss what was proposed during the June 21st meeting. Council agrees to move forward and scheduled a conference call on Wednesday, July 14 at 11:00 am.

VII. Other Business

a. City Administrator Report

City Administrator Sands provided an update on electrical work for the Masonic Lodge (Annex 2), Streetscape Grant, Fire Hydrants, Splost Project Update, Entrance Signage, Banners for Downtown, Cares Act, American Rescue Plan, Stormwater, Park Management RFP, Audit, FY2022 Budget and Mill Rate, Traffic on Main and Klondike, Truck Route, Social Media engagement, and Georgia Power. (Detail on the report provided to Mayor/Council and available as an agenda item). Councilman Dodd inquired about the additional truck purchase for Public Works, and if the street sweeper would continue to be leased or purchased, discussion to be continued during the Work Session. Council agreed to schedule the first Budget Work Session on Monday July 12 from 2-4 pm in person at the suggestion of Mayor Reynolds. Councilman Dodd recommended to hold off on hiring a Park Manager or scheduling any events in the back of the park until the noise situation has been resolved, and the city should continue to manage the process. Councilman Honore feels the city should continue to manage the park. City Administrator Sands asked council if any items should be added to the RFP. Mayor Reynolds is recommending the city continue to manage park reservations and reopen the bid next year. Councilwoman Inman recommended that Ms. Annette Radford is appointed to manage the back of the park, Mayor Reynolds agrees and does not feel that it is a conflict and concluded that the topic would be discussed further.

b. Police Department Report

Chief Pollard stated shooting on Randall, investigation resulted in quality work. Security system captured someone wanted in atlanta. 3-way stop sign onto main street from max Cleland. Starting to put things together for the old city hall building, working with monson.

Put things together for code enforcement reporting. Grant for computers will be in effect. Working on additional grants. Motorcycle detail has presence at the events. Council had no questions or concerns.

c. Annexation Update

Councilman Dodd stated the next town hall is July 28 from 7-8pm, getting door hangers out the week before, Bill Johnston is working on the comprehensive plan in comparison to Dekalb County with all proper advertising, reaching out and answering questions in the meantime, and asked Council to check emails for another issue with re-zoning on Rock Chapel. Mayor Reynolds is requesting that City Administrator Sands send out a letter to all residents who would be annexed.

d. Mayors Report, Councilmember District Update

Mayor Reynolds stated that she asked the accountant to be on the call, however she was unavailable to do so, to ask if there were any challenges, there are fees being proposed that were not part of the agreement.

Councilwoman Inman provided a reminder of the Lithonia Roundtable on July 15 at 5pm. Councilwoman Wynn expressed sensitivity to the re-zoning issue on Rock Chapel and the meeting that will be held on July 14 at 1pm. Mayor announced to council that she has a scheduled zoom meeting with Bernie Knight on Thursday July 8 at 11:30 am if anyone wanted to join in discussion of annexation.

VIII. Executive Session (NONE)

IX. Adjournment

Councilman Dodd motioned to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn; the motion was approved by a vote of 4-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.